

The shell of the building is composed of white brick, with Caen stone dressings. The circular window, seen in the engraving, is 18 feet 6 inches diameter. A degree of ornament has been imparted to the two towers, and other portions of the building, by simply omitting the bricks in a regular pattern.

The height of the spires is 117 feet; they are covered with red ornamental tiles, designed to suit the style. The flank elevations have two tiers of semicircular-headed windows, with moulded brick jambs and stone label mouldings; these are divided by piers, which form five bays to each flank, having enriched strings connected with the towers, and executed in ornamental brick, the whole being surmounted with a stone cornice.

The window casements are composed of moulded zinc, and divided into an octagon and lozenge-shaped pattern; on the glass is to be worked embossed ornaments.

The whole of the work has been creditably executed by Messrs. Locke and Nesham, from the designs, and under the direction of Mr. Gibson, of Westminster.

The cost, exclusive of the site, will be about 8,000*l*.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A FREEMASON'S HALL, capable of accommodating "all the brethren of the country," is proposed to be erected at Manchester.—The Liscard Northern Schools, New Brighton, parish of Wallasey, planned by Mr. Charles Reed, of Birkenhead and Liverpool, architect, have been completed. The design is Gothic, and the material yellow stone, in small pieces, and there is accommodation for 400 children. The cost was 810*l*., exclusive of church and school fittings.—The foundation-stone of a new school-house at Piddletrenbide, says the *Worcester Journal*, was laid a few days ago. It is to be of Gothic character, for 80 to 100 children, with dwelling for school master and mistress: funds for the building contributed by the Misses Amelia and Maria Bridges, of London.—A motion is to be made at next Worcester sessions for the repairs of Upton-bridge, by substituting a single iron arch for the two arches and the central pier.—At the Hereford sessions it was lately ordered, that the shire-hall have considerable repairs; that the plan and site for a lock-up-house at Wigmore being prepared, tenders for its erection be called for; and that various bridges and other works be repaired, &c.—The chapel of St. John the Baptist, at Baldon, near Bradford, lately consecrated, on its restoration, stands on the former site, with a northern extension, and has the south aisle in the place of the former nave, with the arches formerly separating the nave from the aisle, dressed and restored. The nave and aisle have separate roofs, and the doors on the south and west are of oak, with iron scroll-work. The chancel opens into the aisle by a pointed arch on octagonal shafts, like the five separating the nave from the aisle. The whole is lighted by three, two, and one light windows. The east window of the chancel is filled with Powell's cast glass or quarries, and coloured in Early English patterns; and the west end cinque foil light with stained glass by Barnett and Sons, of York. The seats are open and low, and there are open benches with backs, the whole for 500 persons, stained in oak. The architects were Messrs. Mallinson and Healey, of Bradford and Halifax. The cost, including old materials, was rather more than 1,000*l*.—St. Matthew's Church, Liverpool, has been burnt down by overheating the flues.—Estimates for the repair, or rather the entire restoration, of the old Norman chapel, in the old Castle at Newcastle, have been made out, and the works will be immediately begun. The Antiquarian Society there, it is said, will not consider its labours terminated till the whole castle has been completely repaired.—The Newcastle and Gateshead Working Men's Association for improving the public health have decided on carrying out a plan for the erection of improved dwellings for their own social amelioration.—The foundation-stone of the new church at Penrith was laid on Thursday week.

TRUSS FOR SHOP FRONT, LIVERPOOL.



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THE accompanying drawing represents one of the trusses to a shop front now in course of execution in the old Haymarket, Liverpool, from the designs of Mr. H. T. Edwards. The trusses, which are the largest in Liverpool, measure, with the panelled blocking and ante-fixæ, 9 feet in length, each, by 3 feet 4 inches in the greatest breadth. The drawing is to a scale of 1 inch to 1 foot.

J. T. ARDENHURST.

THE GLASS TRADE AND THE LIGHT AND HEALTH TAX.

SIR,—Seeing an "Architect's Opinion of the Window tax" in *THE BUILDER* of the 18th ult., allow me to add a few remarks as to the fallacy of taking the duty off glass and yet retaining the window-tax. When Sir Robert Peel proposed the present income tax, the duty off glass was put forth not only as one of the equivalents, but as one of the greatest blessings the trade and the public could have. Amongst other things, we were to have glass at 3*d*. per foot; a wonderfully increased consumption; at the same time, glass water pipes, glass watch springs, and thousands of articles, were to be manufactured of this material, which were never before attempted, through the interference of the Excise. In short, it was supposed that glass coaches, glass houses, and glass slippers, were to be realised. But what is the fact? When the duty first came off, the public having reserved their orders for the previous six months, and the new Metropolitan Buildings Act coming into operation about the same time, a great quantity of houses were commenced to avoid it, and there was decidedly an increased consumption; indeed, I admit that some descriptions of window-glass were with difficulty obtained. But what is the case now? Why, the wonderfully increased consumption has been gradually dwindling down to worse than its former amount. Four or five

of the works are at the present closed, and the remaining manufacturers have blown out, perhaps, two furnaces out of three, keeping on the one merely to employ some of the old hands; and with respect to the price, there is not a manufacturer but will tell you he is losing money in making glass at the present low figure, which is caused by over production, and the desire to keep out the foreigner. And again—"Where, and oh, where" are your thousands of other articles not hitherto manufactured. There has yet been only one manufacturer who has attempted it, and he has produced but three or four things which are really useful, and those of extremely limited sale, the principal of which are glass milk pans and glass tiles—the first one person in about 100 ever uses; the second is seen occasionally in quantities of one or two, to throw a light into a shed, &c.

The fallacy lies in taking the duty off an article to render it cheap, and at the same time keeping on a tax which restricts the use of it. It is something like telling a man you may have glass very cheap, but you must not use it. No person will put an extra window into his house because glass is cheap, when he knows it will subject himself to an extra tax. No architect will improve the appearance and health of buildings by introducing windows, because glass is cheap. In fact, although cheap glass is very desirable, under the present circumstances both the public and the manufacturer are deprived of nearly all its benefits.

If Sir Robert Peel had taken off the window tax instead of the duty, if he could not have afforded both, there would have been thousands of persons who would not have cared about the first expense of extra windows, but dislike at the present time paying an annuity for them: there would then have been an increased consumption, consequently an increased revenue. The duty would have been much easier collected than the tax. There would have been none of those abominations, blank windows, our friend the architect would not have been cramped in his ideas, and, above all, the public might be enjoying much healthier habitations.

S.